

will afterward put into practice, the dogma that malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes, and they will set communities to work draining swamps, screening cisterns and kerosining pools, to stop the malaria. It will stop the malaria all right—but how about the creeds of other sects, which declare that malaria is caused by “wrong thoughts,” or twisted spines, or is a variant of the itch? Shall we establish one of these sects above the other, merely because it happens to be founded on scientific knowledge? These students will fight tuberculosis with fresh air and nutritious food. The particular sects which object to quinine for malaria mostly agree with this treatment of tuberculosis. But there are other very numerous groups which exclude fresh air in tuberculosis cases, for fear of “catching cold,” and put their faith in whisky. And there are numerous groups which object to nutritious food—one sect bars meat and another all cooked food, and another prescribes starvation for all ills, including hunger. Shall these creeds be denied that public recognition which is granted to the rival faith of science?

The scourge of smallpox has been banished from the civilized world by vaccination. Typhoid has been banished from armies by protective inoculation; the ravages of diphtheria have been minimized by antitoxin; and hog cholera is being banished by immunizing serum. But there are sects which attribute the cholera to the imperfect apprehension of divine truth by the mortal mind of the hog, and would cure it by reading to the hog spiritual admonition out of a book. There are those who assert that there is no such thing as diphtheria; it is merely a name for a group of unrelated symptoms, one of which can best be treated by spilling a drop of belladonna into Lake Michigan and then administering a spoonful of Chicago water every hour. And why combat typhoid by patrolling watersheds, excluding flies, and inoculating soldiers, when the real cause of the outbreak of cholera in camps is the sudden and simultaneous displacement of the fourth lumbar vertebra of all the soldiers?

All these things are believed, preached and practiced. And yet, in the mere name of experience and science, it is proposed to establish as a public institution, another sect which has nothing in its favor except that it is true. Is not this an establishment of religion, forbidden by our fundamental law and by the genius of our institutions?

If the common analogy holds good, it certainly is. If there are sects, creeds, or schools in the doctrine and practice of health and disease, analogous to the sects which we mutually tolerate in matters of religion, then this new University degree is an infringement of liberty of faith. It is the establishment of science as the orthodox dogma of the state—that is, if the analogy holds.

And if it does not hold (which it doesn't)—then what is the meaning of all the rest of the arguments for “medical freedom,” every one of which is based on just this false analogy, and on nothing else?—Fresno Republican.

#### THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE ISTHMIAN CANAL ZONE.

It is the desire of the Medical Association of the Isthmian Canal Zone to be represented at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, to be held in San Francisco during the year 1915.

It was decided at the November meeting of the Society to hold an extraordinary session at the Exposition some time during the Medical Period, which begins June 13th and ends July 3rd. The most desirable time appears to be the week beginning June 14, 1915, as this date is near the meeting to be held by the American Society of Tropical Medicine, and the meeting of the American Medical Association.

It seems appropriate that our Society should be represented, and it is therefore earnestly requested

that all former and present members will endeavor to assemble at San Francisco during that week, and be prepared to support those in charge of the session.

Former members who now live near San Francisco will be asked to take the lead in perfecting the plan and as soon as the temporary chairman can be appointed, the members are requested to get in early communication with him and express their intentions in regard to attendance, and also offer any suggestions in regard to making the extraordinary session a success.

Due notice will be given as soon as the temporary chairman can be named. H. C. CLARK, Secretary-Treasurer, Ancon, C. Z.

#### POISONOUS FLY DESTROYERS.

The December issue of the Journal of the Michigan State Medical Society calls attention editorially to the danger of using poisonous fly destroyers.

From July 1 to October 15, 1914, 45 cases of poisoning of young children were reported in the press of a few states and it is pointed out that the symptoms of arsenical poisoning and cholera infantum being very similar there are possibly many more cases of the kind. It might be well in view of this danger for physicians to eliminate the possibility of arsenical poisoning before diagnosing a case as cholera infantum. A few years ago there was considerable agitation against the use of phosphorous matches, partly because of some children being poisoned by eating or sucking the heads of the matches. There are doubtless many more cases of poisoning from the poisonous fly destroyers. Phosphorous matches have been abolished, so should be poisonous fly destroyers.

It seems this danger has already been recognized by the authorities in far away South Africa and the sale has been forbidden, except by licensed chemists, of certain arsenical fly destroyers, more particularly the tin boxes which have a wick or wicks through which the poisoned water is drawn. The fact that sugar is added to draw the flies makes these boxes especially dangerous to young children; furthermore, all these poisonous fly destroyers are usually placed on the window sill and children as well as flies are attracted to the windows and the poisons are thus within their reach.

Both the blotting paper impregnated with arsenic (which is put in an open saucer with water and sugar), or the tin boxes with wicks to draw the poisoned water to the surface, are extensively used, and there is probably no poison so commonly and unnecessarily used where it is perforce within the reach of young children as these various arsenical fly destroyers. In country homes where it often takes some hours to get a physician, and even in our cities among the foreign born, where the parents are, as is well known, slow to call the services of a physician for childish ailments, the danger is especially great. There are as effective and more sanitary ways of killing flies. Poisonous fly destroyers are an unnecessary evil and should be relegated to the past like the phosphorous match.

#### SERUM FOR INFLUENZAL MENINGITIS.

A fresh supply of the serum for influenzal meningitis, from the Rockefeller Institute, is at the Lane Hospital. As the supply is very limited, a confirmed diagnosis by bacterial examination is necessary before it may be used.

#### DEATHS.

Mattner, Ernest H., San Francisco.  
Shaw, Frederick E., Sacramento.  
Lasher, Geo. W., Los Angeles, Cal.  
Kugeler, H. B. A., San Francisco.  
Wadsworth, C. C., San Francisco.  
Stallings, F. L., Lindsay, Cal.  
Robb, Lewis Griggs, San Francisco.  
Manson, Peter, Fresno.